

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: frap.cdf.ca.gov



FP7

June 2, 2004

County Auditor/Controller:

In an earlier correspondence requesting your office to establish fund numbers and levy codes for the State Responsibility Area fee imposed by SB 1049 (Chapter 741, Statutes 2003) it was indicated that a Model Collection Agreement was in the final stages of development. Such an agreement is now finished and a copy is attached for your use. An electronic version is available on the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) website under Hot Topics at http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/fire_er_sra.php.

In drafting the Model Collection Agreement, CDF worked with representatives of the County Counsel's Association of California and the Auditor's Property Tax Managers Subcommittee to develop this Agreement. However, neither group is responsible for the content of the Agreement. It represents a standard agreement through which CDF would like to approach each county.

The Agreement contains a number of technical points, such as meeting Auditor format requirements, information regarding transferring of funds to the State Treasurer, and handling of public concerns over the fee. The language also provides for counties to charge for all or some of the costs for the levy, submittal and collections.

Under SB 1049, counties are obligated to levy, collect, and transmit the fee, so lack of a signed Collection Agreement does not remove the obligation. CDF hopes that it will be able to reach agreement with each SRA County and thereby be able to cover some or all of the associated costs.

Representatives of CDF and Shilts Consulting Inc., the Designated Fee Administrator for the SRA fee, will be in contact shortly to discuss this agreement with your office.

Sincerely,

Dean Cromwell
SRA Fee Project Manager

cc: County Counsel
Cindy Shamrock, CDF
Gerard van Steyn, Shilts Consultants, Inc.